

Message Text

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S/S - JPMOFFAT

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R 222248Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCEUR

JCS

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CNO

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S E C R E T STATE 015439

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS:MPOL, PFOR, US, XO

SUBJECT: EXERCISES WITH IRANIAN NAVY

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 346; (B) JIDDA 401; (C) ABU DHABI 148;

(D) DOHA 60; (E) KUWAIT 283

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1. CONCERN OF POSTS OVER SENSITIVITY OF TWO USN EXERCISES WITH IRANIAN NAVY HAS BEEN NOTED. THE US/IRANIAN/BRITISH NAVAL EXERCISE SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF A ROUTINE ANNUAL EXERCISE WITH MIDEASTFOR. ITS TRIPARTITE NATURE IS AN ASSET, PARTICULARLY WORKING WITH THE BRITISH IN THE GULF AREA. WE CONSIDER SUCH AN EXERCISE TO BE BOTH TECHNICALLY AND POLITICALLY USEFUL.

2. IT HAS BECOME NORMAL PROCEDURE FOR U.S. NAVAL UNITS DEPLOYED TO THE INDIAN OCEAN TO ENGAGE IN BILATERAL EXERCISES WITH FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. WE THINK SUCH EXERCISES ARE DESIRABLE AND HOPE TO CONTINUE THEM ROUTINELY. THE ENTERPRISE TASK GROUP IS NOT REPEAT NOT PLANNING TO ENTER THE PERSIAN GULF. ITS EXERCISE WITH THE IRANIAN NAVY ;OULD BE IN THE ARABIAN SEA/INDIAN OCEAN AREA.

3. THE PARTICULAR NATURE OF BOTH THESE MODEST EXERCISES SHOULD REDUCE THEIR POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. OUR INTENTION IS TO CARRY THEM OUT IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, CONSIDERING THEM TO BE A ROUTINE MIDEASTFOR OPERATION AND THE NORMAL ACCOMPANIMENT OF ROUTINE U.S. DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA UNDER ANNOUNCED U.S. POLICY.

4. FOR TEHRAN. WE AGREE WITH PARA 3 OF TEHRAN'S 346 CONCERNING LIMITED STAFF CAPABILITY OF IIN WHICH MIGHT BE OVERBURDENED BY TWO EXERCISES IN SHORT TIME SPAN AND YOUR SUGGESTION THAT, IF IIN DESIRES TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLY ONE EXERCISE, ARYA IS PREFERABLE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT DECISION WHETHER IIN PARTICIPATES IN BOTH OR ONLY ONE SHOULD BE LEFT TO IRANIANS. IF IRANIANS DECIDE TO PARTICIPATE IN EXERCISE WITH ENTERPRISE, ASSUME EXERCISE AREA WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY DISTANT FROM STRAIT OFHORMUZ IN EFFORT TO REDUCE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY. KISSINGER

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NNN

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